

the strength is, where the wear and tear has occurred and where the frayed edges and holes have occurred.

The mending occurs when we revise current policies and implement new ones. To create an effective policy and weave a durable social fabric we must add the appropriate thread in the correct proportions.

Just as the textile industry weaves nylon thread to create a more durable cloth, to break the cycle of teen pregnancy and poverty, we must implement pregnancy prevention programs that educate and support school age youths [10-21] in high risk situations and their family members through comprehensive social and health services, with an emphasis on pregnancy prevention.

I strongly support abstinence education and feel that it is critically important to fund abstinence programs for preteens as well as teenagers. Within 5 years, a concentrated abstinence program for preteens should bring about a decline in the number of teenagers who are sexually active.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that today, so many of our teenagers are already sexually active. It is therefore imperative that we also provide funding for comprehensive prevention programs including contraceptive use.

We must also weave a comprehensive policy to address the numerous factors that contribute to the number of teenagers having babies. We currently have a patchwork of different policies which has been created by patching the holes in our social fabric.

Every time a problem began to tear the social fabric, it was patched by creating an individual policy to address each individual problem.

This patchwork includes the obvious differing policies: Encouraging abstinence, preventing unintended pregnancies among the sexually active, alleviating the problems associated to adolescent parenthood, and attempting to ensure that teen pregnancy does not lead to welfare dependency.

However, there are big holes in the fabric that have not been patched. These include establishing paternity and holding fathers financially responsible, enforcing child support laws, protecting young teenagers from sexual abuse, and enforcing States' statutory rape laws that are currently on the books.

We must weave a comprehensive policy into the social fabric at the federal level to prevent teen pregnancies.

The first thread is a policy that allows state and local agencies to implement concentrated, organized contraceptive intervention programs.

The second thread is to enact cohesive policies and laws, at the Federal, State and local levels.

The third thread is sufficient Federal funding to implement them.

Devoting more resources to preventing teen pregnancy will not only save us money in the long run, but it will strengthen the social fabric by improving the health, education, economic op-

portunities and well-being of our Nation's youth.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH ELVIN J. JAMES, GOLDSBORO, NC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of an outstanding individual from eastern North Carolina, Elvin J. James.

Elvin James is the head football coach at Goldsboro High School, in my district in North Carolina. Recently, USA Weekend Magazine honored Coach James with its "Most Caring Coach Award, 1996."

Without a doubt, education is an issue that is critically important to the future of our country. Though we spend more money on education than any other country in the world—\$27 billion to be exact—our students' test scores and literacy levels have steadily declined.

It is becoming more and more clear that we must return education to parents, local communities, and especially to teachers. Mr. Speaker, it is a teacher like Coach James, who goes that extra mile, who dedicates so much of himself to his students, that brings this message home.

Coach James is a living example of where hard work and dedication can take you in this world. Coach James grew up in Beaufort, NC, and was adopted by his grandmother, Jennie James, who supported him and eight other children by working as a maid.

She admits to this day that the family had very little, but Jennie James taught her children right from wrong.

Her continuing message, "Get an education, work hard, be respectful," had a great impact on Coach James' life.

Coach James excelled in football and other sports during his school years. In 1974, he was awarded an athletic scholarship by Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, to play football and to pursue a college education.

Unable to pay for his expenses, James left school and joined the U.S. Army. After serving 4 years, he returned to college and earned a degree in education.

He has been teaching ever since. Coach James currently lives with his wife Mary Kay, their daughter, Ashelyn and their son, Elvin Jarrod.

Mr. Speaker, Elvin James is worthy of our recognition for more than just this. During the past 10 years, Coach James had helped more than 50 students earn college scholarships, and helped numerous students stay in school.

He spends countless hours on the phone talking with college coaches about potential candidates. Many times a year, Elvin James travels from State to State, taking students on

campus visits and trying to introduce them to opportunities, they never dreamed were possible.

Since he began, Coach James has put more than 80,000 miles on his car. He has spent more than \$3,000 of his own money, and given up more than 45 of his sick and vacation days to take these players on recruiting trips.

Less than a half-dozen of these players would have received scholarships if it had not been for these trips.

Coach James doesn't stop here. James is there for each student, literally, every step of the way; helping them prepare for the SAT or helping them fill out their college applications.

On several occasions, when parents were unable to take their children to college, Coach James was the one who took them and helped them move in. He has even let students with family troubles move in for a while, until things at home got worked out.

Coach James works in a school that serves many disadvantaged students. Many of his students come from broken homes. By many of society's standards, the odds are against these children's success.

However, Coach James is a great motivator, who encourages students to believe in themselves, even when no one else does. When Coach James looks at these children, he sees wonderful young men and women, who, if given the opportunity, will become outstanding and productive citizens.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 14 years, Elvin James has been touching the lives of young people. He deserves this award and our praise tonight.

Coach Elvin James, USA Weekend Magazine's Most Caring Coach, 1996, is an example of what is truly right with our education system. Our country and especially our children need more teachers and parents, just like Coach James.

I am proud to recognize Coach James, as a symbol of all the men and women who have dedicated their lives to education, and who care so much about our children's future.

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THE 1997 REPUBLICAN BUDGET: THE STAND AGAINST CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, June 1, thousands of families, schools, churches, synagogues, and other organizations will gather at the Lincoln Memorial for what is aptly being called the Stand for Children. Stand for Children is a national day of commitment to children that has been convened by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by more than 3,000 national, State, and local organizations.

From my hometown of San Diego, CA, alone more than 120 people organized by the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego will be attending this event.

The Stand for Children will address the critical issues facing America's children, including drugs, violence, and poverty.

Ironically, children in America are also under attack by the very institution that should be protecting them from these evils, the U.S. Congress. This 104th Congress is waging a stand against children.

The Republican majority, with the so-called pro-family agenda, has pretended to extend its protective hand toward America's youth, when in reality it has not given our children a fair shake. This majority has voted repeatedly to slash funding for children's programs, including education, student loans, child nutrition, health care for children, child protection services such as foster care, and aid for disabled children.

This agenda threatens not only the education and well-being of our Nation's children, it puts the future of America at risk. If our children do not receive a quality education, proper nutrition, and a nurtured upbringing, then American businesses will not be able to compete in the global economy.

Congressional Democrats have worked with President Clinton to fend off the onslaught of these cuts. This year we successfully restored most of the education cuts proposed by Republicans in their 1996 budget, and the President vetoed many damaging cuts in children's programs contained in the so-called welfare reform and budget reconciliation pills.

I would have hoped that Republicans learned a lesson from their failure to cut children's programs in this year's budget but, sadly, they have not. Their proposal for fiscal year 1997 would cut many of the same programs that were on the chopping block last year. This month 221 House Republicans voted for the 1997 budget resolution which would cut funding for education and training programs by 22 percent over the next 6 years.

Here are the specifics of what the majority whip called the pro-choice or the pro-education or the pro-child Congress:

A 6-year freeze in title I funding for aid to local schools, resulting in a 20 percent cut by the year 2002.

A 6-year freeze for Head Start, resulting in a 20 percent cut by 2002.

Elimination of the Goals 2000 public schools reform which currently helps 5 million students in more than 8,000 schools across the country raise their academic achievement.

Their proposal eliminates all Federal funding for bilingual and immigrant education.

It eliminates new funding for Perkins student loans which provide low-interest financial assistance to thousands of college students, and eliminates the di-

rect loan program which helps 2.5 million students receive college loans more quickly and less expensively than traditional loans.

It eliminates AmeriCorps, the national service program that gives 200,000 young people the chance to serve their communities while earning money for college.

And it cuts 20 percent in funding for our Nation's libraries.

This is what the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] called the pro-children's Congress. Republican cuts in other programs would also threaten the well-being of our children.

By cutting Medicaid by \$72 billion over 6 years, they jeopardize the Federal guarantee of coverage to thousands of low-income children. And by allowing the wealthy to opt out of the health care system through the use of medical savings accounts, they risk causing a further decline in coverage and services for poor families and children.

The Republican budget would also cut spending for school lunches, foster care, aid to disabled children and youth crime prevention programs.

It is time for Republicans to realize that the American people will not tolerate massive, irresponsible cuts that failed earlier this year. Our children deserve better. We must give our children the assistance and support they need for a successful future.

Mr. Speaker, let us all stand for children.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FILNER. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. VENTO. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to commend him for his statement. I also want to point out that under the rubric of welfare reform the Republican proposals cut SSI, programs that go to children with various types of disabilities such as cystic fibrosis and multiple sclerosis, actually cutting those benefits by 25 percent. This is all under the rubric of welfare reform.

This welfare reform is a good bumper sticker slogan, but when we peel off that bumper sticker and look at what is behind it, we have got cuts in school lunches, we have got cuts in terms of various types of nutrition programs. We have got cuts in terms of child care. This, mind you, all under the rubric of welfare reform.

Of course under welfare reform we all know the proposals that have been put forth for a teenage parent that has another child. That child would get no support. Some help in terms of a child-friendly Congress, taking it out on the child that is born to a teenage mother.

Mr. FILNER. Let us all, again, stand for children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

NOMINATING LEONEL MOREJON ALMAGRO FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning approximately 60 members of this House, including the Speaker, will be sending a letter to the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Parliament, the entity that designates the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, to nominate Leonel Morejon Almagro, the National Delegate of the Concilio Cubano, the Cuban Council, an umbrella of over 140 pro-democracy groups in Cuba, for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Morejon Almagro is at this time a political prisoner at the State security prison at Villa Marista in Havana. Mr. Morejon Almagro is a 31-year-old attorney who was dismissed from his position as a lawyer because of his defense of numerous political prisoners in court. In 1986 he founded NaturPaz, Nature Peace, a peaceful environmental group that was prohibited by the Cuban dictatorship. Shortly after its founding, NaturPaz supported a ban on all nuclear weapons testing in the world. In 1991 he was detained by Cuban State Security for organizing a peaceful demonstration in front of the UNESCO office in Havana to protest the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the environmental destruction that it caused.

In 1986 and 1987, Mr. Morejon Almagro, at great personal risk, taught ecology and pacifism to students in school and criticized Cuban involvement in the Angolan and Ethiopian conflicts.

He played a decisive role this year in the formation of Concilio Cubano, as I stated, a coalition of over 140 peaceful pro-democracy organizations in Cuba. And he was elected a National Delegate of Concilio Cubano on February 10, 1996. He was arrested 5 days later, charged with resisting authority, and sentenced to 6 months in prison. He began a hunger strike after his arrest and his mother told independent journalists in Cuba that she feared for his life and believed that he was being subjected to psychiatric torture, including electroshocks. Upon appealing his sentence, Mr. Morejon Almagro was resented to 15 months instead of 6 months imprisonment. He has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. The National Vice-Delegates of Concilio Cubano also remain in prison to this day, Lazaro Gonzalez and Mercedes Parada Antunez, the latter in a hospital. The regime stated that she would be subjected to surgery and has not specified what it has meant by that.

Just as Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese dissident leader, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, and before